
COMMANDA GENERAL STORE MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Edition #3

www.commandamuseum.ca

October 2023



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We can't thank all of you enough for the support you have shown us this year. To those of you who generously donated while attending the Museum, donated used books, donated artifacts, or who simply shared your personal stories about the Museum, about your families, and the area, you are the reason we, as volunteers, do what we do.

2023 was indeed everything the volunteers hoped it would be starting with our fundraising Pancake Breakfast on April 2, our July 1 grand opening Barbecue and Strawberry Social, and ending with our October 14 Chili Dinner, we felt supported and appreciated! We could not have held these events without the extra volunteers who committed to help - Marjory, John, Carrie, Herb, Sarah, Jessica, Darla, Tyler, Crystal, Jane & Bruce - thank you, thank you!

To our students, Stefan and Marissa, thank you for your dedication and passion (and the great milkshakes).

To Sabina and Mike at 705blackfly.com who joined us in January and have been absolutely essential in supporting us and moving forward so many of our projects and plans. You guys are the best!

To the local businesses who supported us by donations and discounts, Anya Annuals, Battalion Hockey Team, Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Buchanan's Castle Building Centre, Canadian Tire, Country Tanks, Decal Shop, Exhale Massage, Forest n Farm, Gomoll Timber Mart, Helene's Antiques, Highview Golf Course, Mill Bay Market, Ontario Agra, Port Loring Home Hardware, Roots and Roost Farm, Rupert's Variety, Trillium Maple Farm, Trout Creek Feed Store, Trout Creek General Store, Trout Creek Planing Mill, Trout Creek Tire, United Rentals, we can't thank you enough for your support!

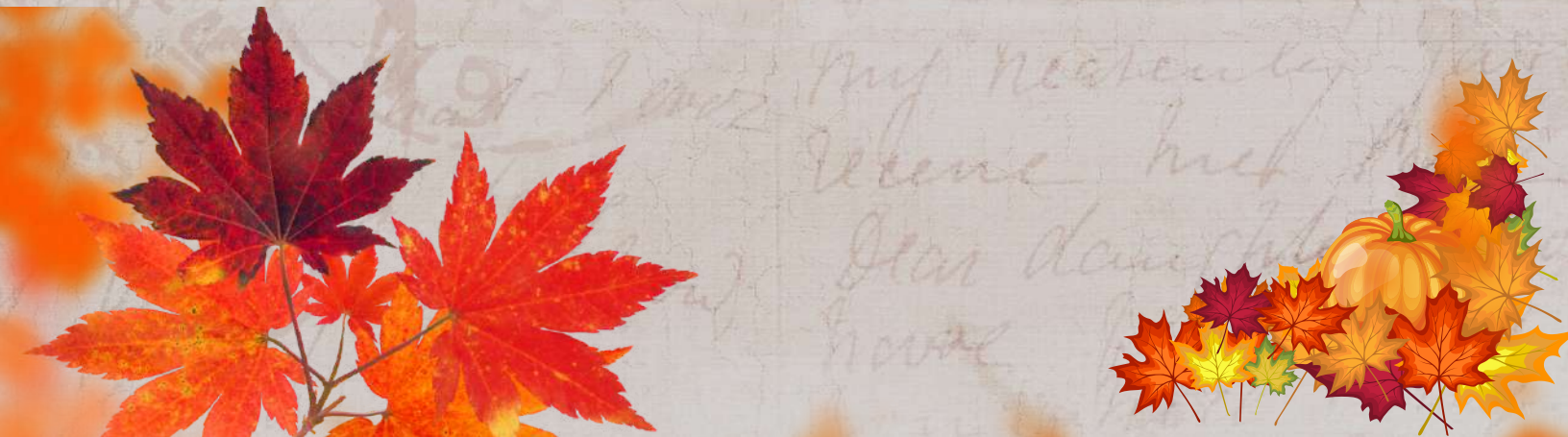
To the local people who have participated in our Genealogy Project by participating in personal interviews or by donating items or simply by visiting and share your local stories - you are what makes the Commanda Museum great (and oh, so important)!

To Mike and the many contractors and suppliers, thank you for all of the work being done on the Commanda Museum and the Church buildings. These repairs and upgrades will allow the Museum to continue to be open and to offer more space for continuing exhibits and events.

Our gratitude and thanks to Bradly "Dreamwalker" MacDonald for creating the most wonderful murals as a beginning to the new Indigenous Exhibit! We can't wait for you all to see these next season.



Thank you to Norm Dokis for attending our Chili Dinner and who discussed some of the interpretation of the new murals created by Bradly "Dreamwalker" MacDonald and who educated and entertained us.



Cash donations are almost the only operating funds the Museum receives and these funds keep the Commanda Museum open and improving. Donations can be made by e-transfer to commandamuseum@gmail.com, or by cheque, payable to Gurd and Area Historical Corporation, (mailed to 4077, Highway 522, Commanda, Ontario, POH 1J0).

Returnable bottle collections will continue at both the Commanda Museum and Legrou Lake Landing. We thank all of you who have so generously donated this year.

Along with personal donations received, the Commanda Museum acknowledges and greatly appreciates grants received in 2023 from Nipissing Township, Caisse Alliance - Port Loring and from the Province of Ontario (Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and Ministry for Senior's and Accessibility) . These grants have allowed the Museum to do repairs to the buildings and to create the Indigenous and Genealogy Exhibits.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and our website www.commandamuseum.ca to keep up to date on the latest exciting happenings and plans at the Commanda Museum.

*Yours in community,
Commanda Museum*





THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, a holiday observed on October 31, the evening before All Saints' (or All Hallows') Day. The celebration marks the day before the Western Christian feast of All Saints and initiates the season of Allhallowtide, which lasts three days and concludes with All Souls' Day. In much of Europe and most of North America, observance of Halloween is largely nonreligious.

Halloween had its origins in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. On the day corresponding to November 1 on contemporary calendars, the new year was believed to begin. That date was considered the beginning of the winter period, the date on which the herds were returned from pasture and land tenures were renewed. During the Samhain festival the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes, and those who had died during the year were believed to journey to the otherworld. People set bonfires on hilltops for relighting their hearth fires for the winter and to frighten away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognized by the ghosts thought to be present. It was in those ways that beings such as witches, hobgoblins, fairies, and demons came to be associated with the day. The period was also thought to be favourable for divination on matters such as marriage, health, and death. When the Romans conquered the Celts in the 1st century CE, they added their own festivals of Feralia, commemorating the passing of the dead, and of Pomona, the goddess of the harvest.

In the 7th century CE Pope Boniface IV established All Saints' Day, originally on May 13, and in the following century, perhaps in an effort to supplant the pagan holiday with a Christian observance,



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it was moved to November 1. The evening before All Saints' Day became a holy, or hallowed, eve and thus Halloween. By the end of the Middle Ages, the secular and the sacred days had merged. The Reformation essentially put an end to the religious holiday among Protestants, although in Britain especially Halloween continued to be celebrated as a secular holiday. Along with other festivities, the celebration of Halloween was largely forbidden among the early American colonists, although in the 1800s there developed festivals that marked the harvest and incorporated elements of Halloween. When large numbers of immigrants, including the Irish, went to the United States beginning in the mid 19th century, they took their Halloween customs with them, and in the 20th century Halloween became one of the principal U.S. holidays, particularly among children.

As a secular holiday, Halloween has come to be associated with a number of activities. One is the practice of pulling usually harmless pranks. Celebrants wear masks and costumes for parties and for trick-or-treating, thought to have derived from the British practice of allowing the poor to beg for food, called "soul cakes." Trick-or-treaters go from house to house with the threat that they will pull a trick if they do not receive a treat, usually candy. Halloween parties often include games such as bobbing for apples, perhaps derived from the Roman celebration of Pomona. Along with skeletons and black cats, the holiday has incorporated scary beings such as ghosts, witches, and vampires into the celebration. Another symbol is the jack-o'-lantern, a hollowed-out pumpkin, originally a turnip, carved into a demonic face and lit with a candle inside. Since the mid-20th century the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has attempted to make the collection of money for its programs a part of Halloween.



OCTOBER IN HISTORY

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 1, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 4, 1957 - The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days.

October 6, 1927 - The first "talkie" opened in New York. The Jazz Singer starring Al Jolson was the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue.

October 8, 1871 - The Great Fire of Chicago erupted. Over 300 persons were killed and 90,000 were left homeless as the fire leveled 3.5 square miles, destroying 17,450 buildings.





*See You
In
November*